

From: Jack
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 11:37am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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Corvallis, OR 97330

January 24, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft

US Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am sending this email to show my support for the settlement reached in the Microsoft antitrust case. The settlement should make it easier for other companies to work with Microsoft and its products. I find it weird that the suit was brought in the first place, since companies that wanted more business in this industry could get it by making their products better. I think innovation, by the whole technology industry including Microsoft, should be encouraged, not stifled.

I work in the computer printer segment of the computer technology. Compatibility of our printers with popular software is important to our business. It could be of some considerable benefit to our partners, the computer industry, and us in general, that the settlement will allow us to have the open access to Microsoft's copyright software code for the internal interfaces of the widely used Windows programs. Industry standards are the lifeblood of peripheral products, such as our printers. Microsoft has greatly helped the industry by setting an affordable, easy to use standard that a wide range of people around the world have chosen to adopt out of the multitude of systems available.

Other terms in the settlement, such as changes to Microsoft's ability to exercise its contract rights will help the industry, including Microsoft's rivals, such as AOL Time Warner. AOL will be able to work with computer manufacturers to remove Microsoft's Internet Explorer and Windows Messenger and replace them with AOL's own Netscape Navigator and AOL Internet Messenger, AIM. So, in terms of the American computer industry as a whole, the settlement's requirements of increased openness, flexibility and disclosure from Microsoft should lead to greater experimentation and innovation. Microsoft should benefit too, from the end of the distractions to its business focus and costs of litigation. The settlement is, in my opinion, in the public interest.

Sincerely,

Jack Kolb